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is probably due to lessened chances to obtain nutrition, which I have shown in other papers is not favorable to the female or reproductive power. A greater amount of nutrition is spent on the large corolla, which is saved in the smaller female one.

The Labiatae are well-known for the tendency to abort stamens in many genera and species. The law under which this is accomplished is still obscure. Whatever that may be as affecting all the individuals of one genus or species, it can scarcely be identical with that which causes gyno-dioecism among individuals of the same species, yet the very fact that similar results appear to come from different agencies, gives the whole question an interest that should attract to it renewed attention. I do not know any subject that promises better reward, and one of the aims of this paper is to stimulate observations by botanical students.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

Notes on the Flora of the Palisades of the Hudson.

Frequent visits to the Palisades, extending through an entire season, enable me to report the following plants as growing within a distance of three miles northward from Englewood, which I have never met with on the opposite side of the river in New York City, where I have long been closely familiar with the flora :

Cerastium arvense, L. Common along the top of the Palisades. It flowers in May, in some places adorning the brink of the cliffs with a fringe of white bloom. It occurs on Manhattan Island near High Bridge.

Impatiens aurea, Muhl. Flowering opposite Riverdale on August 18, 1878, and near Englewood, September 17, 1887. Has been reported from further down the river.

Amorpha fruticosa, L. A group of plants on the shore opposite Mt. St. Vincent; flowering June 21, 1888. Has been reported from near Tarrytown.

Desmodium cuspidatum (Muhl.), Hook. Woods at the top of the Palisades opposite Riverdale (in fruit September 18, 1887), and two sterile plants near the shore a mile above.

Phaseolus polystachus (L.), B. S. P. Found at two places on rocky wooded slopes across from Spuyten Duyvil. It grows luxuriantly, but seems to be mostly sterile, although some full

sized pods were found September 22, 1888. Has been reported from New York Island and from Tarrytown.

Baptisia tinctoria, R. Br. Near Englewood. Singularly enough this common plant seems to be wanting on the opposite side of the river.

Crantzia lineata (Michx.) Nutt. On the shore across from Mt. St. Vincent.

Sambucus racemosa, L. Wooded slopes along the Palisades.

Solidago arguta, Ait. Sparingly in woods at the top of the Palisades opposite Mt. St. Vincent. Flowers past their prime September 23, 1888.

Cynoglossum Virginicum, L. At several places. With small flower buds, May 30, 1887.

Orontium aquaticum, L. Woods back of the Palisades, nearly opposite Mt. St. Vincent. Past flowering May 30, 1887.

Woodsia Ilvensis (L.), R. Br. On the edge of the cliff at Indian Head.

In connection with this list of plants are to be noted the following, which occur on the New York side of the Hudson only at one or two stations:

Arabis lyrata, L. Abundant on the exposed stony slopes at the foot of the Palisades, and extending up the face of the cliffs wherever it can find a root-hold. On the opposite shore a few plants grow near Spuyten Duyvil and Riverdale.

Geranium Robertianum, L. Common on the rocky, wooded slopes of the Palisades. It occurs on Manhattan Island near High Bridge.

Staphylea trifolia, L. Found only at a single station on the New York side of the river, two miles inland.

Rubus odoratus, L. Common; on the contrasted side of the river it occurs only near the shore at Riverdale.

Cornus circinata, L'Her. On the New York side only at one inland station.

Galium lanceolatum, Torr. Not uncommon; on the New York side at only one spot, near the river.

Solidago squarrosa, Muhl. Common; on the New York side it occurs sparingly near the river between Spuyten Duyvil and Mt. St. Vincent.

Gaultheria procumbens, L. Common; on the New York side I have found it only near Fordham.

Gerardia Virginica (L.), B. S. P. Not uncommon; it occurs opposite only at one station on Manhattan Island on the bank of the Harlem River.

Teucrium Canadense, L. Quite common; on the opposite shore I have met with it only on Ft. Washington Point.

Asclepias verticillata, L. Common; on the New York side I knew of a single station for it where it is now extinct.

Andropogon provincialis, Muhl. This is the only grass I have met with on the Palisades which is not well represented on the opposite side of the river, where it occurs at only one locality. It is frequent along the top of the cliffs.

EUGENE P. BICKNELL.

Riverdale, N. Y. City.

Gentiana alba, Muhl.

A gentian, discovered many years ago, by Dr. Gray, during a botanical trip through the mountains of West Virginia, was described and published by him in the *Am. Journal of Science* as *G. flavida*, but in the first edition of the *Manual* it reappeared as "*G. alba*, Muhl., Cat!" with the statement, that, although the name is inappropriate and the giver of it has left on record no character of the plant, he regards the two as identical. Among the synonyms cited is the *G. ochroleuca*, Frœl., of the *Flora Cestrica* (ed. 2), and Dr. Darlington, following such high authority, supplants it by *G. alba*, Muhl., in the subsequent editions of his work. Now, strange to say, the specimens in his herbarium at West Chester, Penn., prove that he was right in the beginning. They are all *G. villosa*, L. (*G. ochroleuca*, Frœl.). The same is true of the citation from Torrey's *Flora of New York* (ii. 106). Dr. Torrey expressly says that he had seen no specimens of the plants he describes, but his description, with its "obovate leaves and wingless seeds," clearly indicates *G. ochroleuca*, Frœl. Hence, *G. alba*, Muhl., should be dropped from the *Catalogue* of the Torrey Club.

In Muhlenberg's *Catalogue* (ed. 2), under *Gentiana*, occur these three species: "2, *Saponaria*, L."—which is probably cor-